has come to the notice of my Government and certain important steps have been taken to improve their lot.

INDUSTRIES

11. The policy of my Government has always been to encourage the industrialisation of the State. They have constituted a Planning Board to evolve suitable plans in this regard in collaboration with the Planning Commission of the Government of India, and also a Cottage Industries Committee to advise on the ways and means of developing cottage industries. In collaboration with the Government of India, proposals have been finalised for the establishment of a factory at Alwaye for processing monazite. My Government have agreed to render financial assistance for the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of House Service meters and for the establishment of a caustic soda plant at Alwaye as a feeder to the Monazite factory.

CO-OPERATION

12. In our State the coir industry is the main source of livelihood to a substantial portion of the coastal population. To eliminate middle men and to assure the labourers employed in this industry a living wage, my Government have sponsored a scheme for the centralisation of the industry and for its administration through twenty-three units each under the control of a Co-operative Society. With a view to providing pure milk to the urban population, a Co-operative Milk Supply Scheme has been launched. The Co-operative College, run by the Travancore Co-operative Institute, has started a course of study on commercial subjects under the Government of India Technical Institutes' Scheme.

FISHERIES

13. My Government are aware of the difficulties which the fisherfolk are experiencing in getting timber for boats and catamarans, yarn for nets, and salt for curing purposes, and are taking adequate steps to remove these difficulties. They have constituted a Committee for the formulation of schemes for development of the fishing industry in the State. As part of the Grow More Food Campaign, they propose to take up a number of schemes such as Estuarine Fish Culture and maintenance of seed farm at Ayiramthengu for supply of Fry and Fingerlings to private owners; expansion of the stocking ponds at Ayiramthengu; paddy-cum-fish culture at the Kayamkulam lake; deep-sea fishing with power vessel; model fish curing yard for the efficient and hygienic curing and distribution of fish; fish stocking of the Hydro-Electric Reservoir in the High Ranges with Mirror carps from the Nilgris; improvement of Narakkal fish farm and starting of a new farm at Poyyayil; and construction of an ice plant for the preservation and transport of fish.

ELECTRICITY

14. The extension of electric lines into the various parts of the State and the Capital schemes for raising more hydro-electric power are going on according to programme. As a step towards the popularisation of the use of electricity, my Government have sanctioned a scheme of "assisted electric supply" under which the consumer may have a minimum of lights in his house and pay the capital cost in five years. The scheme also provides for the Government themselves meeting the service connection charges and for the collection of rental from the consumer for the service line.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly